

SENATE RESOLUTION 120

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to recognize MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee who was awarded the Hanban's Individual Performance Excellence Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to recognize those citizens who receive prestigious awards for their professional excellence; and

WHEREAS, Sidney A. McPhee, the president of Middle Tennessee State University, is one such estimable person; he was recently a key note speaker at the 8th annual Global Confucius Institute conference in Beijing where he addressed more than 2,200 delegates from one hundred countries; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his leadership, President McPhee was among thirty university presidents or heads of the more than four hundred Confucius Institutes worldwide to receive Hanban's Individual Performance Excellence Award, known as its "Person of the Year" honor; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of President Sidney A. McPhee, Middle Tennessee State University has strengthened its international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, expanded its study-abroad and cultural opportunities, and developed research collaborations with international partners; and

WHEREAS, President McPhee has personally coordinated and hosted numerous cultural exchanges between China and the State of Tennessee, including reciprocal visits by delegations of students, officials, and artists that have strengthened and created academic, economic, and cultural opportunities for both entities; and

WHEREAS, in September 2013, President McPhee facilitated a top-level meeting between the Director-General of China's global Hanban Confucius Institute network, the

Governor of the State of Tennessee, and several prominent Tennessee government officials, which further strengthened the partnership between Hanban, MTSU, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, under President McPhee's leadership, the Confucius Institute at MTSU (CIMTSU) has experienced a rapid expansion of its operations since it was established in April 2010 and now boasts nine Chinese programs at educational institutions located in seven counties in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the number of registered students served by CIMTSU in 2013 exceeded 2,000, an increase of 150 percent since 2012 and CIMTSU helped present 25 cultural activities in 2013, which attracted more than 7,000 people, a 30 percent increase compared with that of 2012; and

WHEREAS, President McPhee's most recent book, "China: Through the Eyes of an American University President," was widely circulated in China and the U.S. and was selected by China's foreign ministry as a significant cultural presentation during 2013; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to applaud Tennessee leaders like President McPhee whose integrity and leadership serve as an example to all Tennesseans; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate MTSU President, Dr. Sidney McPhee, for the honor of receiving the Hanban's Individual Performance Excellence Award and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.